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Reporting System for Sept. 1 - Sept. 30, 2002*

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Eurasian Ruffe Continue to Move in the Great Lakes

New Discovery in Lake Michigan, Range Expansion in Lake Superior

During a routine Eurasian ruffe surveillance survey in Lake Michigan waters off Escanaba, Mich., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists from the Ashland Fishery Resources Office captured and destroyed an adult Eurasian ruffe. This is the first confirmed finding of a ruffe in Lake Michigan. Two weeks later, on Sept. 4, biologists found another ruffe in Lake Superior's Keweenaw Waterway, 101 km farther east than the ruffe's last known location.

The Eurasian ruffe is an exotic invasive species first discovered in the Duluth, Minn., harbor and St. Louis River estuary of Lake Superior in 1986. Since then, ruffe numbers in the Duluth harbor have increased to become the most common species found while sampling with trawls. Their range has expanded into the Wisconsin, Michigan and Ontario waters of western Lake Superior, and to one location in Michigan waters of Lake Huron. Control measures have slowed range expansion since 1995, but this recent appearance in Lake Michigan and expansion in Lake Superior indicates that ruffe are continuing to grow in the Great Lakes.

"Although the effects ruffe will have on native Great Lakes fish populations are difficult to predict," said Mark Dryer, project leader for the Ashland FRO, "strong evidence suggests they compete with native fish for food and space."

The ruffe is in the same family as native yellow perch, walleye and some darters. In the Duluth harbor where ruffe have become a dominant species, natives like yellow perch and some bait fish have declined. Unfortunately, unlike native perch species, ruffe have no known economic, recreational or environmental value



- USFWS photo by Gary Czepinski

Service biologists use trawls and other techniques to monitor the movement of ruffe in the Great Lakes. The partnership effort to control aquatic nuisance species includes private industry and many federal, state, tribal and Canadian governmental agencies.

in North America.

It is believed that the eastward movement of the ruffe found in Lake Superior is due to natural migration along the lake's southern shore.

Biologists are uncertain about how the fish moved into Lake Michigan. It is unlikely that the fish naturally migrated from another location since they were not previously found in Lake Michigan. More likely, the fish was transported in the ballast water of a commercial ship. Ballast water exchange is believed to be responsible for the initial movement of ruffe from their native habitat in Europe to the Duluth harbor.

Service Regional Director Bill Hartwig is less concerned about how the fish arrived in Lake Michigan than what needs to be done now. "It would be helpful to know how these fish got here so we can expand measures to stop future movement,"

said Hartwig. "But, the more immediate issue is what we do about the ruffe now that they are here. If they move into southern Lake Michigan, it is possible they could enter the Mississippi River ecosystem through the Chicago Canal system."

The Service is the lead agency for the Ruffe Control Program that was approved by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force in 1995. The Ruffe Control Program is a joint federal-state-tribal-private-partnership that is responsible for monitoring and controlling ruffe populations. Since 1986, Service biologists have been tracking the spread of ruffe by surveying shipping ports, tributaries and coastal locations throughout the Great Lakes. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is also monitoring populations in the Canadian waters of the Great Lakes.

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Eurasian Ruffe Continue to Move in the Great Lakes

Service Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries Gerry Jackson has recommended an increase in the Service's ruffe monitoring and research activities.

"We will immediately begin discussing options with our partners to increase monitoring efforts in Lake Michigan to determine the size and range of this new ruffe population," Jackson said.

Currently, there are no practical methods available to eliminate ruffe populations in the Great Lakes. "Our best approach now is to identify new populations through surveillance so measures to control their spread can be focused," added Jackson. "We need to contain existing populations and at the same time increase our research efforts to develop safe and effective methods to control the spread and impact of this and other aquatic nuisance species." *Gary Czypinski and Mark Dryer, Ashland FRO*



- Graphic courtesy U.S. Geological Survey

DeSoto Refuge Law Enforcement Officer Rescues Stranded Boater

At midnight on Sept. 26, DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Officer Rod Hansen received a phone call from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources reporting that an 84-year-old man was stranded on a sandbar of the Missouri River somewhere between DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges. Hansen's assistance was requested to search for and rescue the elderly male. The temperature was expected to drop into the low 40s overnight and the man reportedly did not have adequate clothing.

From the report, a man and his elderly father were fishing from a boat on the Missouri River when they experienced trouble and were

not able to get the motor working. They paddled until they reached a sandbar at the edge of the river, south of Wilson Island State Park, which adjoins DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. The two built a fire on the sandbar and the son decided to walk up river to find help. Because they were expecting to be back by sundown, they did not have additional warm clothing with them.

At approximately 11:30 pm, the son reached Wilson Island State Park and made contact with Chris Anison, an Iowa DNR park ranger, who called Hansen for assistance.

At approximately 1:00 am, the man was located huddled over a campfire on the sandbar. He was unable to walk due to exposure to

the cold weather. Anison and Hansen assisted the man in getting into the boat. After everyone was aboard and secure, the fire was extinguished and a tow rope was hooked to the disabled boat, which was towed back to a boat ramp at Wilson Island State Park.

Upon arriving at the State Park at approximately 2:00 am, Anison and Hansen assisted the individual into a warm vehicle and trailered his boat.

Hansen recommended the son take his father to the nearby hospital in Missouri Valley, Iowa, for medical treatment. *Cindy Meyer, DeSoto NWR*

Federal Funds Awarded to 51 Fire Departments in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region

Rural fire departments that help protect federal lands in the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region recently received federal funds to support their firefighting capabilities. The departments support national wildlife refuges and wetland management districts operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The funds come through the Rural Fire Assistance Program, which provides more than \$1.2 million annually to enhance the capabilities of fire departments that help protect land managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"This program is designed to increase firefighter safety and firefighting capabilities of those small-town fire departments that help provide fire protection to our refuges and wetland management districts," said Bill Hartwig, Great Lakes-Big Rivers regional director. "Recent history has shown us the importance of safely controlling fires on federal lands. These volunteer fire departments and rural fire departments provide a valuable service. The funds provided by this program will help those small departments get the additional training and equipment they might need not only



- USFWS photo

The Erskine, Minn., Volunteer Fire Department received a grant for \$5,430 to purchase communication and safety equipment usable when conducting wildland fire suppression work. A presentation of the grant was made by Rydell Refuge Manager Rick Julian at the group's monthly training meeting. The Department will match the grant with 10 percent of their own money.

to help us, but their own communities as well."

The Rural Fire Assistance Program is a cost-share program. Fire departments contribute 10 percent, the federal contribution is 90 percent. To receive funds provided by the program, fire departments must have a fire agreement with a local refuge or wetland management district, or be part of a statewide agreement with the State Forester

who maintains cooperative agreements with rural and volunteer fire departments. Fire departments must also serve a community with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants. Fire departments can use the funds to purchase equipment and supplies or conduct fire training. *Chuck Traxler, External Affairs*

Grants Were Awarded To:

Wisconsin (13) Amount

Shelby Fire Dept. \$450
Stoddard-Bergen Vol. Fire Dept. \$4,700
Dakota Fire and Rescue \$4,475
Lincoln Fire Dept. \$1,145
Rollingstone Volunteer Fire Dept. \$3,772
Cutler Volunteer Fire Dept. \$4,780
Tri-Community Fire Dept. \$2,500
Kenoskee Fire Dept. \$4,530
Brownsville Fire Dept. \$1,000
Necedah Volunteer Fire Dept. \$9,734
Oakfield Volunteer Fire Dept. \$9,476
Knowles Volunteer Fire Dept. \$6,500
Wapun Community Fire Dept. \$4,400

Indiana (6) Amount

Colombia Rural Fire Dept. \$3,358
Francisco Volunteer Fire Dept. \$2,500
South Patoka River Fire Dept. \$4,400
Jefferson TWP Rural Fire Dept. \$5,500
Lockhart TWP Rural Fire Dept. \$5,305
N. Patoka TWP Rural Fire Dept. \$1,922

Illinois (9) Amount

Makanda Township Fire. Dept. \$3,970
Alexandria Rural Fire Dept. \$2,100
Clarksville Volunteer Fire Dept. \$4,000
Pleasant Hill Rural Fire Dept. \$4,000
Williamson County Rural Fire Dept. \$4,800
Lewiston Rural Fire Dept. \$5,000
Havana Rural Fire Dept. \$7,311
Dongola Auxiliary Fire Dept. \$4,000
Ridge Lake Rural Fire Dept. \$4,085

Missouri (7) Amount

Puxico Fire Dept. \$540
Butler County Rural Fire Dept. \$3,800
Wappapello Volunteer Fire Dept. \$5,500
Lowndes Volunteer Fire Dept. \$4,801
Cooper County Rural Fire Dept. \$4,556
Howard City Rural Fire Dept. \$2,856
Holy County Rural Fire Dept. \$1,000

Ohio (1) Amount

Allen-Clay Rural Fire Dept. \$3,500

Iowa (1) Amount

Titonka Fire Dept. \$1,500

Michigan (1) Amount

Spaulding Volunteer Fire Dept. \$5,575

Minnesota (13) Amount

Twin Valley Rural Fire Dept. \$350
Mahnomah \$12,342
Audoban Volunteer Fire Dept. \$4,730
Glenwood Fire Dept. \$6,609
Morris Fire Dept. \$10,000
Fergus Falls Fire Dept. \$10,964
Windom Volunteer Fire Dept. \$10,594
Starbuck Fire Dept. \$8,500
Clinton Fire Dept. \$5,000
Pickwick Volunteer Fire Dept. \$2,900
Erskine Fire Dept. \$5,430
Odessa Fire Dept. \$4,500
Palisade Fire Dept. \$5,300

Least Bittern and Shorebird Studies Continue at Agassiz Refuge Despite Difficult Conditions

Least Bittern Study

Research Technician Karen Arnold of the Gaylord Memorial Lab recently completed her second field season on the Agassiz Least Bittern Nesting Study. The study, which ran May 27 through August 15, is being conducted on three national wildlife refuges - Agassiz, Mingo and Squaw Creek - by Dr. Leigh Fredrickson.

This was to be the last field season of the study; however, due to severe flooding at all sites the study will continue next year.

Twenty-two nests were located on the refuge by June 9, when the flooding occurred. Of the 22 nests found, none survived to produce hatchlings. Three of the nests were abandoned, one was depredated and the remaining 18 were lost to flooding.

Search efforts resumed on June 19 in Headquarters and Madsen pools due to the presence of suitable habitat and bittern activity; 28 nests were located by August 15. Of these 28 nests, 10 were successful, 14 failed and four had an unknown outcome. Of those nests that failed, 10 were depredated, two were abandoned and two were lost due to weather and exposure.

The average number of eggs per nest was 5.1 and the average number of eggs hatched per nest was 2.70. Of those 10 nests thought to be successful, a total of 26 young were

considered to have fledged.

Nests were considered successful if they produced at least one fledgling. Due to the mobility of least bittern young and the increasing complications of catching them as they develop, hatchlings observed until at least six days post-hatch were considered to have a good chance of fledging. Therefore, any nest at which at least one hatchling was observed to have survived at least six days was considered successful.

All data collected during the 2002 field season, along with concurrent data collected at Mingo and Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuges, is being summarized and analyzed.

Shorebird Study

SCEP Student Kari Odefey from the University of Missouri - Columbia, recently completed the first year of a two-year study to determine how climate variability and geomorphic setting influence habitat conditions within wetland complexes. The study's goals are to describe formation and hydrology of wetlands in relation to climatic conditions in northwestern Minnesota and assess shorebird use in and around Agassiz Refuge in relation to habitat conditions associated with climatic conditions and wetland types.

Twelve plots were established on refuge drawdown sites and 33 off-refuge sites included mostly agricultural fields and CRP lands.

Spring surveys were conducted May 6 through June 5. Peak use was May 25. Fifty species of waterbirds, 19 of



- USFWS photo

Research Technician Karen Arnold takes measurements of a least bittern hatchling.

those shorebirds, were recorded. The total number of waterbirds documented was 2,258, of which 774 were shorebirds. Fifty-three percent of the waterbirds recorded were on the refuge.

A dry spring with little snowfall the previous winter left many areas west of the refuge dry. However, a heavy rain on June 9 changed those conditions dramatically. Refuge drawdowns were no longer available to shorebirds. Pools approached water levels similar to the 1997 flood and drawdown levels were not restored until late in the season. Most study sites off-refuge were also impacted.

Fall surveys began July 11. The majority of the shorebirds were using flooded fields. Only one scheduled drawdown pool was available for shorebird use in late August. In September, several others became available. Final results of fall census are not available yet. *Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR*



- USFWS photo

Common snipe were one of 19 species of shorebirds observed during the first year of this study.

Region Honors Individual, Group and Tribe for Wetland Conservation

A Renville County, Minn., farmer, an Illinois conservation organization and a Wisconsin Native American tribe are among individuals and groups selected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to receive National Wetlands Conservation Awards (NWCA) to the Private Sector.

Daniel Rauenhorst, a farmer from Renville County, Minn., was selected as the NWCA's national runner-up in the individual category for his deliberate, voluntary efforts in restoring drained wetlands and enhancing associated grassland habitats in Renville and Kandiyohi counties.

Rauenhorst, nominated by the Service's Litchfield Wetland Management District, has restored approximately 245 acres of wetlands on his properties. He's also restored, enhanced and protected another 430 acres of associated grasslands.

Regional group winner for the Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region was Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc., for their efforts in protecting and restoring wetland habitat along the Illinois River in Calhoun and Jersey counties, Ill. In particular, the group helped protect the only known population (in these counties) of the federally threatened plant, decurrent

false aster, by removing 10 acres of encroaching, invasive woody plants. Also, the group was a strong voice and advocate in securing funding for two wetland enhancements totaling more than 3,000 acres of backwater lakes and seasonal wetlands on Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge.

The regional group runner-up was the Ho-Chunk Nation from near Black River Falls, Wis. The Nation became involved with wetland conservation through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program conducted from the Wisconsin Private Lands Office and Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, who have provided funds and technical assistance to the tribe.

During 2001, the Nation restored 75 acres of wetlands and 185 acres of native grasslands on tribal lands in Juneau County.

The three winners selected from



- USFWS photo by Russell Engelke

Refuge Supervisor Jon Kauffeld (third from right) and Two Rivers Refuge Manager John Mabery (second from left) presented Migratory Waterfowl Hunters, Inc., with their award at a ceremony on Sept. 28.

the upper Midwest were recognized during ceremonies within their communities.

"We are proud of our regional winners and their achievements," said Bill Hartwig, regional director of the Service's Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region. "It's their commitment and passion to wetland conservation that sets them apart and has influence far beyond the local areas where they are committed to the stewardship of our natural resources." *Steve Kufirin, Refuges and Russell Engelke, Two Rivers NWR*



Troy Swallow, president of the Ho-Chunk Nation (second from left) accepted the award from Service representatives Jim Ruwalt (far left) and Larry Wargowsky (far right).



Service representatives Barry Christenson, Steve Erickson and Lance Kuester (back row, left to right) presented the Rauenhorst family with their award.

Unique Partnership Stocks Coaster Brook Trout at Isle Royale National Park

This successful stocking event was a joint effort of the Iron River National Fish Hatchery, Genoa National Fish Hatchery, Isle Royale National Park staff and vessel, Red Cliff Tribal Hatchery, Region 3 External Affairs and the Ashland Fishery Resource Office. Approximately 50,000 coaster brook trout fingerlings were stocked at three sites on Sept. 24, to help restore remnant brook trout populations at Isle Royale, Michigan.

These coasters were raised at the Genoa and Iron River National Fish Hatcheries from gametes collected at Isle Royale the previous year. Approximately 50,000 fingerlings from the Iron River hatchery were stocked in Siskiwit Bay, at Hay Point and Senter Point, and a total of 500 fingerlings from the Genoa hatchery were stocked in Rock Harbor. The fish reared at Genoa hatchery were returned to

natal waters per the agreement for coaster brook trout broodstock development.

The fingerlings from Genoa hatchery were loaded onto a stocking tank late in the afternoon of Sept. 23 and then trucked to Iron River hatchery. These fish waited until later that evening when the crew loaded the remaining fingerling into stocking tanks, one of which was borrowed from the Red Cliff Tribal Hatchery. At approximately 1:30

a.m. on Sept. 24, the trucks departed to Houghton, Mich.

Dawn saw the three trucks pulling into the dock at Houghton.

There, the five stocking tanks were loaded onto the National Park Service's

M/V Ranger III, a 165-foot vessel that is used to transport freight and passengers to Isle Royale. The Ranger III and her crew deviated from their usual route and headed to Siskiwit Bay for the stocking of the

fingerlings. This allowed the brook trout to be stocked after a five and a half hour boat trip. The fingerlings were stocked off the bow of the Ranger III, a first for this stocking event. Things went smoothly, and after stocking at the two points, the Ranger III



Ashland FRO Biologist Glenn Miller (foreground) carefully measures, identifies and records each fish captured before they are released.



- USFWS photos by Chuck Traxler

While on Isle Royale, fykes nets are placed at several locations to capture fish for assessment.

proceeded to Mott Island to dock and off load the remaining 500 fingerlings.

This stocking program is working towards meeting the goals of rehabilitating the Siskiwit Bay population of coaster brook trout as outlined in the Brook Trout Rehabilitation Plan for Lake Superior (Newman, et al. 1999). The primary goal of the program is to rehabilitate the Siskiwit Bay coaster brook trout to ensure its long-term sustainability through the presence of six or more age groups (0-5 years) and a spawning population exhibiting sufficient densities, ensuring a viable gene pool.

Crews from the Ashland FRO are conducting annual electrofishing and fykes net surveys in the Siskiwit Bay area to assess stocking efforts.

Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO



Iron River National Fish Hatchery Biologist Steve Redman oversees the stocking of 50,000 coaster brook trout fingerlings from the deck of the

A Successful Fifteen Years of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture in Minnesota

Since the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV) was established in 1987, the Minnesota conservation partners have contributed more than \$350 million (non-farm program), affecting more than 450,000 acres of habitat. An upcoming report highlighting 15 years of the program will combine Minnesota's accomplishments (outlined below) with the four other states in the joint venture.

The Minnesota Focus - Farm the Best and Restore the Rest

In 15 years, the Minnesota partners have evolved from primarily a priority watershed focus to landscape conservation planning providing multiple wildlife benefits. Earlier efforts focused on the Heron Lake, Swan Lake and Minnesota River watersheds, restoring as much marginal farmland as was feasible. These efforts were extremely suc-

cessful and were assisted by nearly a dozen North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants awarded to partners in these watersheds. In addition, the partners were successful in getting a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program designation in the Minnesota River watershed, providing additional dollars and focus to the Conservation Reserve Program in the state.

Recently, partners began to direct their organizations' activities using planning tools developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET) office in Fergus Falls.

The HAPET office is providing conservation planning maps and models to focus restoration efforts on providing viable landscapes for waterfowl, grassland-nesting songbirds and nesting and migrant shorebirds. In addition, HAPET is also addressing the needs of non-traditional partners interested in flood control, water quality and mitigation opportunities by providing "restorable wetlands" maps for drained, agricultural landscapes using intensive, state-of-the-art photo interpretation. Partners in this effort include the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Red River Watershed Districts, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Dakota State University, Ducks Unlimited and others.

A state-wide funding initiative through the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) called the "Habitat Corridors" project was begun in 2000 and will provide Minnesota conservation partners with additional state-appropriated funds (from lottery proceeds) for at least the next 10 years. This initiative focuses on providing contiguous corridors or

blocks of habitat via federal waterfowl production areas, state wildlife management and natural areas, shallow waterfowl lakes, native prairie remnants, private preserves, grassland restoration areas and riparian habitat corridors. The initiative strives to meet the needs of all the conservation partners and their constituents while still targeting those efforts for maximum effectiveness.

Active nongovernmental partners in this effort include Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, the Trust for Public Lands and many others, as well as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The Results

Breeding populations of ducks and geese in Minnesota have continued to climb steadily since the dry period of the mid-1980s, in a direct relationship with water availability (pond numbers) in the state. Breeding duck populations peaked in 1995 at more than 400,000 pairs, with a slight decline thereafter noted for some species.

The most common breeders in the state including mallards, blue-winged teal and wood ducks, all continue to fare well. State-wide duck recruitment rates average .50 for PPJV counties.

Priority species exhibiting slight population declines during this same period include northern pintail and scaup. Restored wetland/prairie complexes in the state will become increasingly important to breeding and migrating waterfowl and shorebirds if drought returns to the western PPJV areas. *Barbara Pardo, Joint Venture*

2002 Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Award Winners Announced

Organization Award - *Carlyle Lake Waterfowlers Association*

Carlyle Lake Waterfowlers Association (Illinois) is a private organization concerned with the management of wetlands on the site since the early 1980s.

Partnership Award - *Margaret (Peg) Kohring, The Conservation Fund*

Peg Kohring is responsible for projects in the 10 states of the Upper Midwest, with a focus on developing partnerships.

Professional Award - *Mr. John Tranquilli, Illinois Department of Natural Resources*

John Tranquilli's long career has been dedicated to the people and natural resources of southern Illinois, most recently as the Director of Region 5 for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Service's Sea Lamprey Control Program Destroys 3.5 Million Sea Lampreys

Thousands of Lake Trout Saved

Between May 7 and Sept. 18, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's sea lamprey control program treated 28 Great Lakes streams (15 in Lake Michigan, eight in Lake Superior and five in Lake Huron) with lampricide to destroy larval sea lamprey populations.

These treatments destroyed an estimated 3.5 million sea lampreys including about 155,000 that would have metamorphosed to the parasitic phase in 2002 and entered the Great Lakes. There, each parasitic phase sea lamprey would have been capable of killing upwards of 40 pounds of lake trout during its year-long life in the lakes.

The Service's sea lamprey control program is conducted under contract with the Great Lakes Fishery

Commission. The successful control program continues to ensure sport fish rehabilitation in the Great Lakes and protects a fishery valued at over \$4 billion. *Dennis Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station*



Biologists from the Ludington and Marquette Biological Stations in Michigan applied lampricide to 28 Great Lakes tributaries. The chemical used, TFM, destroys larval sea lamprey present in the streambed.



- USFWS photos by Ellie Koon

Big Muddy Refuge Staffer Helps at the West's Worst Wildfires

This summer was yet another record breaking fire season across the west. Tim Haller, park ranger at Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, was able to

assist with fires in Colorado and Oregon. Haller went on assignments in June and August serving as helicopter crew member and deck coordinator on both assignments.

The assignment in Colorado was on the Coal Seam fire that threatened the community of Glenwood Springs and grew to 12,300 acres before it was contained. Several homes were lost, but many more were saved as firefighters struggled with gale force winds and nearly vertical terrain.

Haller served as deck coordinator on the helibase located at Colorado Mountain College just outside of Glenwood Springs.

"This was an excellent location for the base," explained Haller. "The smoke was almost never a problem for the ships and they could fly to and from the fire without flying over populated areas."

As Deck Coordinator, Haller facilitated the logistics of the helibase including determining the

location of landing pads, coordination of cargo and personnel transport and meeting the needs of pilots and personnel on the helibase.

Haller's other assignment for the summer was on the Biscuit fire in Southwestern Oregon. This fire turned out to be the biggest in the country this year and the third largest fire in Oregon's recorded history. This fire reached almost 500,000 acres. "It was a monster," said Haller. "Most fires you can fly a helicopter around in minutes, this one took hours." At one time several communities were threatened and thousands of people were evacuated. The fire burned almost 95 percent of the wilderness area.

Haller considered both assignments as a way to gain considerable experience. "This type of work helps me in my everyday job as well" explained Tim, "I build on my coordination and stress management skills exponentially." *Tim Haller, Big Muddy NFWR*



- NIFC photo by Kari Brown

Haller worked as a helicopter crewmember and deck coordinator on two fires this summer.

Lake Sturgeon Stocked at White Earth Reservation

The White Earth Natural Resources Department, assisted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Rainy River First Nations, entered into an agreement to restore lake sturgeon in White Earth Lake and Round Lake on the White Earth Reservation.

In 1926, a lake sturgeon weighing

176 pounds was caught in White Earth Lake. However, since the turn of the century, lake sturgeon populations have declined due to over-harvest, pollution and water development projects. The last record of a lake sturgeon in this area came from Lake Lida in 1957.

Lake sturgeon are primitive fish that historically inhabited many of Minnesota's large rivers and the lakes associated with those rivers. Native American cultures were partially dependent on the availability of lake sturgeon. Indian villages were often located near waters where sturgeon spawned.

Early European settlement on Lake of the Woods was due to commercial fishing for lake sturgeon when their caviar and fine flesh were wanted worldwide.

It is a goal of the resource agencies to restore lake sturgeon to this part of its original range. The management plan calls for 8,000 fingerlings to be stocked in White Earth Lake and another 5,000 fingerling to be stocked in Round Lake.

Approximately 8,000 fingerling lake sturgeon were stocked into

White Earth Lake and another 5,000 were stocked in Round Lake in early September by the White Earth Natural Resources Department and the Service.

These fish traveled a long way to reach their final destination. The effort began in May at the Rainy River First Nations Hatchery in Canada. Personnel from the White Earth Natural Resources Department and LaCrosse Fishery Resources Office assisted Joe Hunter and his staff at the First Nations Hatchery with spawning over 50 adult lake sturgeon. Prior to spawning, fin clips were analyzed by the LaCrosse Fish Health Center for viral diseases. The eggs were then transported to Genoa National Fish Hatchery. The staff at Genoa did a fantastic job raising over 13,000 lake sturgeon to fingerling size (6-inches) and transporting them to the White Earth Reservation.

Volunteers assisted Service personnel with tagging each sturgeon so their origin can be traced.

On the stocking day, Tribal Spiritual Leader Joe Bush, led a ceremony to bless the fish. *Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO*



- USFWS photo by Scott Yess

White Earth Tribal Elder and Spiritual Leader Joe Bush blesses the lake sturgeon prior to stocking.

Ducks Unlimited Dedication Ceremony Held at Shiawassee Refuge

Ducks Unlimited held a dedication ceremony at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge on Sept. 20. The dedication ceremony and the monument unveiled commemorated a long-term, outstanding partnership for conservation between Ducks Unlimited, Inc., and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Shiawassee.

Since 1998, Ducks Unlimited has helped fund five projects designed to protect, restore and enhance 912 acres of wetland habitat on the refuge to benefit waterfowl, other wildlife and those who enjoy them.

The partnership also extends onto

private lands within the Saginaw Bay Watershed. Since 1998, Ducks Unlimited has provided funding and in-kind services to support and expand the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program conducted by Shiawassee Private Lands Biologist Jim Hazelman. As of June 2002, approximately 385 projects restoring 2,276 acres of wetland and associated uplands have been completed under this partnership.

Fifty-five individuals, foundations and corporations were recognized for their financial support of Ducks Unlimited at the ceremony and are

listed on the monument. *Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR*



- USFWS photo by Becky Goche

Refuge Manager Doug Spencer (right) and Erie Etzel of Ducks Unlimited unveil the monument.

Focus Events Highlight Plans For State Centennial Celebrations

Celebrations and other events marking the 100th birthday of the National Wildlife Refuge System in Region 3 were profiled during a day-long meeting of state centennial coordinators and members of the regional management team at the Regional Office at Ft. Snelling. Information about refuge activities and plans were briefed by the state coordinators. More than 125 events are planned across the region, exposing more than 500,000 people to the refuge system, "America's Best Keep Secret."

In addition to the numerous events planned for Midwest refuges, each state will sponsor a focus event during the Centennial year — Mar. 14, 2003 through Mar. 14, 2004. "Focus events" are major events, employing regional staff from all resource programs designed to cast a bright light on the refuge system through attendance by federal, state and local legislators, Service and refuge partners and members of the news media.

Focus events in the works for

Region 3 include a week-long Celebrating a Century of Conservation tour of the upper Mississippi River aboard the American Queen, the largest riverboat in the nation. The tour begins July 26 under the Arch in St. Louis, Mo., with stops at selected river towns in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The tour includes on-board wildlife interpretation, other refuge system events and a tour concluding event at the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minn., on Aug. 3.

Other focus events include an August VIP boat tour of one of the Great Lakes' largest heron and egret rookeries on West Sister Island Refuge in Lake Erie; the National



- USFWS photo

Puddles continues to travel the region highlighting the refuge system and the Centennial. Puddles is seen here during a parade in Middle River, Minn.

Convention of the Outdoor Writers Association in Missouri in June; Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Directors meeting at Iowa's DeSoto NWR in July; and, Cranefest at Wisconsin's Necedah NWR in September.

The scope of the Centennial events are still being planned. Details about these events and others will be communicated to employees and the public as they are developed. State committee membership includes representatives from all resource programs in Region 3 and are led by a refuge representative.

The regional director has indicated the Centennial is a cause for a "Service-wide" celebration and should include all members of the region.

State committee chairpersons are: Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR, Minnesota; Pam Dryer, Whittlesey Creek NWR, Wisconsin; Pam Steinhaus, Savanna District-Upper Mississippi River NWR, Illinois; Nancy Gilbertson, Neal Smith NWR, Iowa; Marianne Kronk, Seney NWR, Michigan; Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR, Missouri; Rebecca Hinkle, Ottawa NWR, Ohio. *Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*



- USFWS photo by Mary Stefanski

Rice Lake Refuge Maintenance Mechanic Dean Huhta is helping his refuge gear up for the increase in attention and visitors the Centennial will bring by installing a new sign on the visitor

"Into the Outdoors" Television Show Highlights Service Paddelfish Program

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees and volunteers from the La Crosse Fishery Resources Office and the La Crosse Fish Health Center assisted staff from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Discover Wisconsin Productions in highlighting the Service's paddlefish research and management activities in western Wisconsin's Chippewa River for presentation in an upcoming episode of 'Into the Outdoors.' This popular, award-winning weekly children's television program is broadcast in portions of Iowa and Minnesota, as well as throughout Wisconsin. The television show is a key outreach tool for the Wisconsin DNR's highly successful and multi-faceted Environmental Education for Kids initiative.

When La Crosse FRO staff were approached by the Wisconsin DNR to lead a group of young volunteers and demonstrate how radio telemetry is used to learn more about this unique and seldom seen species, they enthusiastically accepted the opportunity.

With a three-person film crew

recording the sights and sounds along a scenic reach of the lower Chippewa River near Eau Claire, the youth helped set and retrieve nets that yielded a 46-pound paddlefish in a matter of minutes.

The young actors then watched as Service staff proceeded to quickly mark the fish with identity tags. Shortly after the multi-tagged fish was released, the children had an opportunity to determine its location in the river by tracking the source of the signal broadcast from the radio transmitter tag, just as Service fishery biologists do to identify the types of habitats that are preferred by this ancient species in modified rivers like the Chippewa.

The children thoroughly enjoyed



- Photo courtesy of Discover Wisconsin Productions, Inc.
LaCrosse FRO biologists demonstrate tagging procedures on a paddlefish as students watch and "Into the Outdoors" television records the

their 'Into the Outdoors' adventure with paddlefish ... an educational adventure that many other children in the Midwest will also be able to enjoy early next year.

NOTE: Broadcast of the paddlefish radio telemetry episode is tentatively set for March 2003. Consult your local television listings or the 'Into the Outdoors' website (<http://www.intotheoutdoors.org>) for broadcast stations and times. *Mark Steingraeber, LaCrosse FRO*

700 Students Attend Environmental Education Days at Sherburne Refuge

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge was a host site for the annual Environmental Education Days attended by 700 students and 50 teacher/parent chaperones from six schools in Sherburne County and one school in Benton County on Sept. 16 - 19.

This was the first trip to the refuge for many students. The students spent half of the day at the refuge and half of the day at Sand Dunes State Forest. The event was a cooperative effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the University of Minnesota Extension Service - Sherburne County; Minne-

sota Department of Natural Resources - Forestry Division, Waters Division and Law Enforcement Division; the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Sherburne County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Refuge staff and volunteers hosted programs on bald eagle management and prescribed burning.

Teacher evaluations show that this day of environmental education programs is a highlight of the year for the students. Many of the teachers say that they refer back to the EE Days activity sessions in lessons they teach throughout the school

year. *Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR*



- USFWS photo by Nancy Haugen
Sherburne Refuge Biologist Jeanne Holler talks with students during Environmental Education

Ecological Services Teams up to Find Endangered Dragonfly in Missouri

The Hine's emerald dragonfly was listed as federally endangered in 1995. In 1999, Linden Trial with the Missouri Department of Conservation found an adult Hine's emerald dragonfly in Reynolds County, Mo., and sent the specimen to Tim Vogt at the Illinois State Museum for verification. This was the first Hine's emerald dragonfly recorded in Missouri.

This finding is an example of how developing partnerships and practicing the Secretary of Interior's "4 C's" - cooperation, consultation, communication, and conservation - are working to achieve recovery efforts for one of the rarest dragonflies in the world.

In 2002, the Columbia Ecological Services Field Office hosted its second workshop on the Hine's emerald dragonfly with presenta-

tions from researchers from the University of Illinois and the Illinois State Museum. Attendees of the workshops included agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missouri Department of Conservation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Natural History Survey, academics and others interested in the dragonfly. In these workshops, attendees learned about species taxonomy, how to identify it in the larval and adult stages and its habitat characteristics. This educational effort has led to the discovery of five new sites in Missouri during the 2002 field season.

In 2002, the Chicago Ecological Services Field Office published the "Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Recovery Plan." This plan was written in cooperation with the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Recovery Team which

includes professors, researchers, land managers and federal, state and nongovernmental agency employees.

In 2002, the Chicago Field Office, Columbia Field Office and the Missouri Department of Conservation pooled their resources to fund additional site surveys in Missouri. These surveys have resulted in the verification of eight new sites in Missouri. In addition, many other interesting findings have been discovered about the ecology of the species and dragonfly taxonomy.

This effort shows that partnerships and the "4 C's" are not just buzz words. These principles benefit not only the parties involved, but most importantly the resource itself. *Kristopher Lah, Chicago ES Field Office*

Northeastern Michigan's Eichorn Bridge to be Restored in 2003

The coldwater fish community in the Thunder Bay River will soon be able to freely access the main branch of the river. A series of four culverts placed at the Thunder Bay River/McMurphey Road crossing in the 1950s will be removed and replaced with a single span bridge. Removal of these culverts will open 20 miles of river allowing fish passage. The road approaches to the bridge will be regraded and paved and proper sediment basins and ditches will be installed, thanks to a series of state and federal grants.

Funding was received from a Michigan Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant, a Michigan State Police FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fish Passage Program. The Alpena

Fisheries Resource Office has been working with cooperators and the Montmorency County Road Commission since 1998, encouraging the partnership to apply for funding.

The Thunder Bay River/McMurphey Road Crossing has been considered by natural resource

agencies as the worst road/stream crossing in northeastern Michigan. An estimated 200 tons of sediment is washed into the river annually due to steep road gradients and the lack of ditches or sediment basins.

Additionally, the road washes out every spring due to the undersized culverts. Upstream fish passage at the site is effectively blocked due to water velocities through the culverts.

The bridge and roadwork, scheduled for installation in the summer of 2003, will alleviate all sedimentation and fish passage issues. The single-span structure will allow for passage of recreational boaters (canoes and kayaks) as well.

Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO



- USFWS photo by Heather Enterline

Eichorn Bridge will be replaced to allow for increased fish passage, less sediment deposition and recreational boating.

Comprehensive Conservation Planning Continues to Move Forward

The final stage of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Litchfield Wetland Management District was completed when public open houses were conducted recently. On the evening of Sept. 3, an open house was held in Litchfield, Minn., at the Meeker County Family Services Center, and on Sept. 9, a second open house was held at the Paynesville Area Center in Paynesville, Minn.

Several staff from the district participated by preparing displays, posters and maps for these events as well as staffing the open houses.

Displays presented the missions and purposes of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Minnesota Wetland Districts. Additional displays summarized the objectives and goals of the district as discussed in the CCP. Still other displays presented examples of management activities, biological monitoring and GIS technology used on the District.

Visitors had the opportunity to review the CCP and summary, view the displays and talk to the project leader and other staff members. Several written comments were

received. *Mary Soler, Litchfield WMD*



- USFWS photo by Bev Meyer

Litchfield WMD Manager Barry Christenson discusses his WMD's Comprehensive Conservation Plan during an open house in Litchfield, Minn.

Accomplishment Reports Received

The following reports were processed by the Region 3 Accomplishment Reporting System for accomplishments completed between Sept. 1 and Sept. 30, 2002. Employees can search reports using the Report Manager utility in the ARS.

Fish Community Health Assessment at Crab Orchard Refuge

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Improved Management of Shovelnose Sturgeon in Ohio and Wabash Rivers

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

FmHA Easement Seeded in Wadena County

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Fall 2002 Seed Harvest Completed with New Combine

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Fergus Falls WMD Fall Spraying

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Ashland Fishery Office Assist with Native American Conference

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Habitat Conservation Plan Continues to Protect Indiana's Only Colony of Least Terns

Lori Pruitt, Bloomington FO

Evaluation of Innovative Shoreline Protection at Crab Orchard Refuge

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Pallid Sturgeon Recovery Efforts in the Middle Mississippi River

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Improved Coordination and Management of Ohio River Sturgeon

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Multi-Agency Coordination for Recovery of the Federally Endangered Pallid Sturgeon

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Improved Management of Mississippi River Basin Paddlefish Stocks

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Mississippi River Fish Community Response to Dredge Spoil Placement

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Improved Recreational Fishing and Public Use Opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Carterville Fisheries Office facilitates Improved Fish Passage in the Upper Mississippi River Basin

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Carterville Fisheries Office Assists in Mitigation of Endangered Mussels in the Ohio River

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Carterville Fisheries Office Protects Aquatic Resources by Inspecting triploid grass carp

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Carterville Fisheries Office Supports Natural Resource Management Program at Crane Naval Base, Ind.

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Carterville FRO Supports Cooperative Paddlefish Management Throughout the Mississippi Basin.

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Carterville Fisheries Office Helps Improve Fishing and Resource Management at Scott Air Force Base

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation at Crab Orchard Refuge

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Understanding Asian Carp Habitat Utilization at the Middle Mississippi River Refuge

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Restoration of Shovelnose Sturgeon in the Upper Ohio River Basin

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Service Works With Partners to Conserve Indiana's Only Gray Bat Maternity Colony

Lori Pruitt, Bloomington FO

Illinois River Fish Community Response to Dredge Spoil Placement

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

First Year of Agassiz Refuge Shorebird Study Completed

Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR

Educating Upper Mississippi River Resource Managers About Black Carp

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

Region 3 Contracting and General Services 2002 Activity Summary

Robert Hansen, ABA-CGS

Alpena Fisheries Office Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO

Erskine Minnesota Fire Department Receives Fire Assistance Grant

rick julian, Rydell NWR

New Biological Monitoring Initiated at the Litchfield Wetland Management District

mary soler, Litchfield WMD

Tree Removal Continues to Benefit Prairie Areas

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/ PWLC

University Students Study Waterfowl Production Area Management

Les Peterson, Detroit Lakes WMD

Kid's Fishing Derby at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge.

Greg Conover, Carterville FRO

September Diversity Report

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/ PWLC

Congressional Aide Tours The Nation's Oldest Federal Fish Hatchery

David Hendrix, Neosho NFH

Illinois Conservation Group Receives National Conservation Award

Russell Engelke, Two Rivers NWR

Tamarac Fall Open House A Success

Janice Bengtson, Tamarac NWR

Agassiz Refuge Studies Reported at Ornithological Conference

Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR

Big Muddy Refuge Helps Clean the Big Muddy River

Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR

Agassiz Refuge Staff and Puddles Participate in Local Parades

Margaret Anderson, Agassiz NWR

Horicon Refuge Hosts 3rd National Public Lands Day Event

Diane Kitchen, Horicon NWR

Eichorn Bridge to be Restored in 2003

Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO

Binational Program Committees and Work Group Meet

Ted Koehler, Ashland FRO

Long Term Care Information Now Available

Linda Krupinski, ABA (Personnel)

Fergus Falls Staff Details During Fiscal Year 2002

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/ PWLC

Ecosystem Approach to Conserving Lake Sturgeon Presented at South Dakota State University

Tracy Hill, Alpena FRO

Predator Scent Post Surveys Completed in Fergus Falls District

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/ PWLC

100 Students Attend Horicon Refuge's First Virtual Field Trip

Molly Stoddard, Horicon NWR

Big Muddy Refuge Supports Childrens Craft Festival in Arrow Rock, Mo

Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR

DeSoto Law Enforcement Officer Rescues Stranded Boater

Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR

ESA Listing Prioritization Stakeholder Caucuses Held

Jean Cochrane, Twin Cities FO

2002 Upper Mississippi/Great Lakes Joint Venture Awards Announced

Barbara Pardo, Joint Venture

ESPN Outdoors Films at Sherburne NWR

Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR

Agassiz Refuge Replaces Water Control Structure

Dave Bennett, Agassiz NWR

Chronic Wasting Disease, West Nile Virus and Hunting Seasons Featured on Local TV

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/ PWLC

Unique Partnering Event Stocks Coaster Brook Trout at Isle Royale National Park.

Glenn Miller, Ashland FRO

Lake Huron Lake Trout Task Group Working to Enhance Rehabilitation Effort

Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO

Illinois Man Pleads Guilty in Federal Court to Illegally Purchasing Hide of Endangered Tiger

Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

Regional Future Farmers of America Rally at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Journalists Observe Trawling for Aquatic Nuisance Species

Gary Czipinski, Ashland FRO

Ducks Unlimited Dedication Ceremony Held at Shiawassee Refuge

Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

More Than 300 Attend Water Festival at Rydell Refuge

rick julian, Rydell NWR

Service Biologist Attends Modeling Subcommittee of the Technical Fisheries Committee Meeting

Aaron Woldt, Alpena FRO

A Successful Fifteen Years of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture in Minnesota

Barbara Pardo, Joint Venture

Norwegian Creek Opened to Fish Passage

Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO

Marketing Group Visit And Tour The Nation's Oldest Federal Fish Hatchery

David Hendrix, Neosho NFH

Fergus Falls WMD Water Level Management During 2002

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Canada Lynx Research in Minnesota

Jean Cochrane, Twin Cities FO

700 Students Attend Environmental Education Days at Sherburne Refuge

Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR

Fiscal Year 2002 Financial Operations

William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

Diversity

Dale Bast, Iron River NFH

Kaskaskia Watershed Association Develops an Ecosystem Approach to Issues and Opportunities Report

Joyce Collins, Marion Illinois FO

Friends of the Prairie Wetlands Annual Meeting

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Wisconsin Private Land Office Hosts Grassland Restoration Technical Session

Kurt Waterstradt, Wisconsin Private Lands Ofc

Unique Partnership Provides \$500,000 for Wetland Restoration in Chicago Area

Christie Deloria, Chicago FO

U.S. Sea Lamprey Control Program Destroys 3.5 Million Sea Lampreys, Thousands of Lake Trout Saved

Denny Lavis, Ludington Bio. Station

Great Lakes Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Meeting Features Tribal Service Partnerships

John Leonard, External Affairs

Senator Bond's District Office Director Toured the Neosho National Fish Hatchery

David Hendrix, Neosho NFH

Service Participates in Hispanic Heritage Seminar

Cindy Myer, Desoto NWR

Muscatatuck Refuge Conducts Visitor Surveys

Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

Muscatatuck Refuge Has Service Exhibits at Indiana State Fair

Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

Hey, Do Ya Want an Historical Lighthouse?

Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH

La Crosse Fishery Office Assists Geologic Survey

Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

Ashland FRO Assists Tribes With Fall Walleye Surveys

Frank Stone, Ashland FRO

Muscatatuck Refuge Has Centennial Exhibit at County Fair

Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR

4 C's" Help Partners Conserve Endangered Dragonfly"

Kristopher Lah, Chicago FO

Twenty-three Properties Delineated for Potential Purchase

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Students Get Hands-On Restoration Experience

Christie Deloria, Chicago FO

Fergus Falls Law Enforcement Program Summary for 2002

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Congressional Contacts On a Number of Natural Resources Issues

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Young Waterfowlers Program a Hit at Minnesota Valley Refuge

Terry Schreiner, Minnesota Valley NWR

Lake Erie Waters Snake Outreach Continues

Megan Seymour, Reynoldsburg FO

Coastal Funding Helps Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid Recovery

Christie Deloria, Chicago FO

Fire Line Construction and Grove Removal at Fergus Falls District

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Prairie Wetlands Learning Center Hosts A World Of Difference" Workshop "

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Wetland Restoration on Waterfowl Production Areas During 2002

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Summer 2002 Weed Control at Fergus Falls District

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Waterfowl Production Area Improvements in Fergus Falls District

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Fergus Falls Fire Department Receives Rural Fire Assistance Grant

Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

Indiana Awarded Grant to Develop Habitat Conservation Plan for Endangered Indiana Bats

Lori Pruitt, Bloomington FO

Lake Sturgeon Restoration Remains a Priority at Genoa National Fish Hatchery

Roger Gordon, Genoa NFH

Biologists Attend U.S. Forest Service Northern Goshawk Habitat Workshop

Robert Russell, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

Hubbard Lake Sportsman's Club Receives Update on Service Double-Crested Cormorant Management Plan

Jerry McClain, Alpena FRO

Chicago Field Office Coordinates Review of Sikes Act Plan for Great Lakes Naval Training Center

Michael Redmer, Chicago FO

Management Group Continues to Work Towards Clean-up Levels for Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Karla Kramer, Chicago FO

Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge Receives \$ 999,800 NAWCA Grant

Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

Michigan's Little Traverse Conservancy Receives \$850,000 Grant to Protect Habitats

Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

Chicago Partnership Assists Landowners and Improves Wildlife Habitat

Christie Deloria, Chicago FO

Iowa Department of Natural Resources Receives \$1 Million Grant For Habitat Projects

Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

Wisconsin Farmland Conservancy Receives \$1 Million Grant for Habitat Projects

Paul Richert, Migratory Birds & State Pgm

Kirtland's Warbler Recovery: A Continued Success

Christopher Mensing, East Lansing FO

Green Bay Fishery Office Completes Lake Whitefish Assessment in Lake Michigan

Dale Hanson, Green Bay FRO

Annual Deer Hunt For Persons With Disabilities Taking Applications

rick julian, Rydell NWR

Litchfield Wetland District Holds Open Houses for Comprehensive Conservation Planning

mary soler, Litchfield WMD

First Year of Lake Sturgeon Assessments in Four Green Bay Tributaries Completed

Brian Gunderman, Green Bay FRO

Lake Sturgeon Stocked at White Earth Reservation

Scott Yess, LaCrosse FRO

Rydell Deer Hunt Clinic Participation Down This Year

rick julian, Rydell NWR

Shiawassee Refuge Hosts Open House Weekend

Becky Goche, Shiawassee NWR

Jordan River NFH Participates in the Northland Sportsman Club's Family, Fishing and Hunting Expo

Clarice Beckner, Jordan River NFH

Big Muddy Refuge Staffer Helps at the Wests Worst Wildfires

Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR

Veden Trust Visits Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

Kenneth Garrahan, Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC

DCR Revamps Its Intranet Site

Arlene White, ABA (DCR)

More Than 300 Wetlands Field Assessed In Kane County, Ill.

Jeffrey Mengler, Chicago FO

Green Bay Fishery Office Assists Oneida Nation

Stewart Cogswell, Green Bay FRO

Agreement Reached on After the Fact Permit at Riversouth Parcel

Karla Kramer, Chicago FO

Genoa National Fish Hatchery Helps Educate Wisconsin Students

Doug Aloisi, Genoa NFH

Ruffe on the Move in Lake Superior

Gary Czypinski, Ashland FRO

Common Tern Colony Produces on Mille Lacs NWR

Mary Stefanski, Rice Lake NWR

Budget and Finance - Gallup Survey Action

William Andersen, ABA (Budget & Finance)

Fish Passage Restored to Stony Creek in Michigan

Heather Enterline, Alpena FRO

Service Helps Sturgeon Bay Hold Festival Featuring its Namesake - Lake Sturgeon

Robert Elliott, Green Bay FRO